



June 29, 2005

Guilty plea in seizure of cocaine and \$80,000 in cash

Anthony J. Medeiros, of North Providence, pleaded guilty today to a federal drug-trafficking charge, admitting that he intended to sell about 300 small packages of cocaine that state police detectives seized in March. Detectives also seized \$80,000 in cash.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Medeiros entered today before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence. Medeiros, 56, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for September 23.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on March 11, **Rhode Island State Police** detectives assigned to the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force** seized about 30 bags of cocaine from a tin in Medeiros' SUV. They later seized about 350 bags of cocaine and \$80,000 in cash from his apartment at 27 Gillen Avenue, North Providence.

A trooper had stopped Medeiros' SUV on Route 146 after the detectives developed information that Medeiros was headed to a bar on Washington Street in Providence, where he allegedly retailed small packages of cocaine every Friday and Saturday.

Medeiros pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. The statutory maximum penalty is 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine.

-30-